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ABSTRACT

North Carolina began implementing End of Course (EOC) tests in 1985-86, In 1998-99, student achievement for high school students was measured through results on the 10 required multiple choice EOC tests, the state's writing assessment, and the percentage of students who completed college preparatory courses of study. This report contains the results for Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) on the EOC tests. When compared to the prior year, scores on Algebra I, English I, Geometry, Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics increased. WCPSS students' scores decreased slightly in Biology, Economic/Legal/Political Systems, and U. S. History. The Physical Science examination was not given in Wake County in 1997-98, so scores were not available for comparison. Two figures contain test results by subject for the county's schools. (SLD)

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MEASURING UP

July 29, 1999

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1998-99 End of Course Testing Results

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Wake County Public Schools Evaluation and Research Department

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MEASURING UP

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EVALUATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

1998-99 End of Course Testing Results

July 29, 1999

Authors: Chuck Dulaney and Caroline Gay Fejoku

End-of-Course (EOC) test scores in the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) in 1998-99 showed some increases and decreases on the required multiple-choice tests in comparison to 1997-98 data. WCPSS students showed gains in six subject areas and slight decreases in three subject areas.

Background

North Carolina began implementing End of Course (EOC) tests in the 1985-86 school year with the first administration of the Algebra I test. Other high school subject tests were added over time until the program included 10 multiple choice tests (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, English I, US History, Economic/Legal/Political Systems (ELP), Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, and Physics) and one writing test (English II). EOC tests are aligned with the Standard Course of Study in each of the areas tested.

In 1995-96, under the ABCs plan, statewide-required EOC testing was reduced to Algebra I, English I, Biology, ELP, US History, and English II. Tests in these courses have been revised in recent years to place a stronger emphasis on higher-order thinking skills. In 1998-99, all districts were again required to test students in Geometry, Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics, and Physical Science.

The multiple choice tests must be given during the last two weeks of the course. The writing test is administered during the second semester of English II. English II results may be found in E&R Report No. 99.29.

Districtwide Results

Eleven tests were required statewide in 1998-99 for the ABC Program's accountability measures. Student achievement was measured through results on the ten required multiple-choice EOC tests, the English II Writing test, and the percentage of students who graduated completing College Prep or College/Tech Prep courses of study. English II and College/Tech Prep data are reported in separate publications.

When compared to the prior year, the average scores on Algebra I, English I, Geometry, Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics increased, with increases ranging from 0.3 to 1.2 scale score points.

WCPSS students' scores decreased slightly in Biology, ELP, and U.S. History, with the largest decline in Biology (-1.5).

The Physical Science exam was not given by WCPSS in 1997-98. See Figure 1 for systemwide and school-by-school comparisons and Figure 2 for graphical representation of WCPSS scores for the past two years.

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Figure 1: Mean Scale Scores for Multiple-Choice EOC Tests

	Algebra I		Biology		English I		ELP		US History		Geometry		Algebra II		Chemistry		Physics		Physical Science	
School	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98
NC	NA	57.1	NA	56.2	NA	53.6	NA	54.7	NA	56.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WCPSS	61.4	60.8	58.3	59.8	56.7	56.4	56.5	57.0	59.5	59.7	62.5	62.2	65.3	64.1	61.8	60.7	59.7	58.8	54.9	NA
Comprehensive High Schools:																				
Apex	61.4	60.5	58.4	59.8	58.5	58.4	57.6	58.4	60.4	61.4	66.3	65.3	69.5	70.3	62.3	62.8	63.1	62.3	58.2	NA
Athens	62.3	60.8	58.1	59.5	56.9	56.5	56.8	57.2	59.6	59.0	63.8	63.5	67.0	63.7	64.2	63.1	62.1	59.3	53.9	NA
Broughton	55.0	53.6	56.8	61.2	57.4	57.3	56.5	56.8	59.3	59.5	62.4	63.6	62.3	62.3	60.6	61.4	61.1	59.1	55.4	NA
Cary	62.0	59.5	57.7	60.1	58.0	56.9	58.0	59.7	60.5	61.2	63.6	63.4	66.8	66.4	60.7	60.3	56.1	56.1	58.3	NA
East Wake	58.6	58.8	53.9	55.2	53.0	52.9	51.9	53.5	55.8	57.5	62.3	60.3	62.0	61.8	55.9	55.9	53.9	52.7	51.2	NA
Enloe	55.0	54.9	60.5	62.9	59.2	59.4	58.7	60.2	62.3	61.7	61.7	62.1	65.2	65.1	63.2	62.2	61.0	60.7	50.7	NA
*Fuquay	57.9	57.7	56.4	57.4	54.2	53.1	54.1	55.5	58.2	57.7	58.3	57.7	59.5	56.5	59.0	57.9	57.3	55.7	54.1	NA
Garner	57.7	57.1	58.0	60.9	54.3	53.8	53.7	53.9	58.7	57.5	58.2	57.7	62.8	65.6	61.9	57.0	59.8	61.8	53.6	NA
Leesville	61.2	60.4	60.9	61.8	58.4	57.8	57.9	59.0	61.2	61.4	63.9	62.8	67.2	66.1	65.2	64.2	62.3	60.0	58.5	NA
Millbrook	56.0	55.0	58.6	60.6	55.8	55.7	54.7	55.4	59.7	60.3	60.1	60.3	63.5	62.9	61.8	63.2	58.9	59.3	56.5	NA
Sanderson	57.6	57.8	57.5	59.2	56.8	56.2	57.0	56.4	59.3	59.9	63.4	60.7	66.2	62.7	64.1	62.2	54.6	56.6	55.3	NA
*SE Raleigh	57.8	59.7	62.4	59.4	57.6	57.7	59.0	55.8	57.0	57.2	61.3	59.5	68.2	66.3	62.2	58.7	59.5	55.2	49.0	NA
Wake Forest	57.5	56.8	57.7	56.3	56.0	55.0	56.4	56.2	59.8	60.5	62.3	60.8	62.9	62.4	56.1	52.8	58.1	55.0	53.7	NA
Alternative High School:																				
*Phillips	50.9	53.6	49.9	50.2	48.6	51.2	51.1	51.1	48.5	50.2	49.6	NA	50.1	62.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	49.4	NA

*All courses at Fuquay-Varina, Phillips, and Southeast Raleigh High reflect the combined fall and spring test administration for block scheduled courses.

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Figure 2: A Two-Year EOC Multiple-Choice Comparison for WCPSS